



## **Clean Energy Future Committee Meeting Minutes**

*Approved at the 11-20-2020 meeting*

October 23, 2020

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Virtual Meeting – Hosted on Zoom

Members present: Jim DiTullio, Ken Pruitt, Dave Levy, Emily Sullivan, Shelly Dein, Dan Amstutz, Adam Chapdelaine, Pasi Miettinen, Ryan Katofsky

Also attending: Eugene Benson and Jennifer Raitt, Director of Planning and Community Development

Members not present: Dianne Mahon, Coralie Cooper, Marc Breslow, Nellie Akenhead

The meeting convened at 8:05 a.m.

### **Video Meeting Procedures**

Mr. Pruitt read a set of prepared remarks explaining the procedures that the Committee would follow to hold a virtual meeting. Governor Baker signed an Executive Order in response to the COVID-19 pandemic allowing virtual meetings, which suspended the usual Open Meeting Law requirement that a quorum of committee members be physically present in order to hold an official committee meeting.

### **Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Pruitt asked the Committee if there was any concern if the November Meeting occurred on November 20<sup>th</sup> (which would be the third Friday of November) instead of November 27, which is the day after Thanksgiving. The Committee Members did not raise an objection.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Pruitt displayed the Minutes from the September 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting. He highlighted minor suggested edits by Mr. Amstutz as he displayed the changes in the Minutes. Mr. Pruitt asked for any further changes from the Committee members. No changes were brought forward. Mr. Katofsky moved to approve the Minutes. Ms. Dein seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The Committee unanimously approved the September 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes as amended.

## **Agenda Item 1: Draft Net Zero Roadmap**

Mr. Pruitt noted that he was suggesting some changes to the proposed Roadmap after meeting with a few groups in Arlington, such as the Fire Department, School Department, Housing Corporation of Arlington, Mirak Auto Group, Sustainable Arlington, and Mothers Out Front. Mr. Pruitt will be meeting with more groups to seek input in the coming weeks. He reported that all stakeholders so far have voiced overwhelming support or noted that specific measures wouldn't impact them. Mr. Pruitt did note that questions were raised about how specific measures would be implemented as many measures call for action without going into great detail about those actions. He said that that fact was actually reassuring to most stakeholders, as they will have a chance to provide further input once the plan is approved but before any measures are implemented. Mr. Pruitt then noted there is an online Virtual Open House forthcoming on Monday, which Mr. Pruitt asked Committee Members to broadcast to everyone in Arlington.

Mr. Pruitt concluded that the Net Zero Plan contract with MAPC will end on December 31, 2020. He said he believes that almost all stakeholder input and a significant amount of drafting of the plan can be achieved by the end of November.

Mr. Pruitt then began to walk through suggested edits to the Net Zero Roadmap from stakeholders. The first was a measure in the Buildings section (NZB3) to change zoning to encourage buildings on non-conforming lots to add up to 10 inches of exterior insulation and further discussed bonus measures to encourage net zero construction. Mr. Miettinen had proposed examples of bonus provisions, but now voiced concern with how they were written in the Roadmap. He suggested the addition of language making clear that any examples were simply examples, and not specific recommendations by the CEFC. Ms. Dein agreed with Mr. Miettinen on this topic and wondered if specifics should be included at all in the official document. Mr. Levy asked if the examples should be reserved as the drafting commences. Mr. Katofsky noted that the examples could be labeled to make clear they were not recommendations but merely examples, and footnoted. Mr. Amstutz echoed Mr. Katofsky's comments about how to label the examples. Mr. Katofsky also noted that the examples are all methods where the Town would not spend money, rather a homeowner would. Mr. Miettinen concluded that he supported the footnoting concept.

Mr. Pruitt then noted that the proposed fossil fuel prohibition measure in the Roadmap would apply to Town Buildings as well, yet the measure did not specifically mention municipal buildings. He noted that Natick's Net Zero Roadmap, also currently being drafted, includes a specific town policy that all new municipal buildings would need to be net zero. Mr. Pruitt clarified that while Natick's language calls for net zero, a fully electric building would accomplish the same goal over time as the electrical grid greens. Mr. Chapdelaine commented that he liked the idea of net zero for new municipal buildings. He wondered if major renovations should be added to the list (such as is expected at Ottoson Middle School in the coming years). Mr. Chapdelaine noted that net zero on day one can be a challenge (such as the high school). Mr. Katofsky also noted the distinctions between net zero energy and a carbon neutral building. He said that by targeting electrification, a building would eventually become carbon neutral. Mr.

Miettinen agreed with Mr. Katofsky's comments. Mr. Pruitt then offered to send around a new proposed measure for review. Mr. Katofsky offered that existing NZB5, which calls for municipal buildings to be made more energy efficient, could be edited to include a net zero or electrification requirement.

Mr. Pruitt then reviewed a Roadmap measure that calls for adding solar panels on at least 50% of the rooftops of new commercial buildings and new apartment buildings with at least 10 units. He noted that Ms. Raitt had raised concerns about the original measure, which called for the solar requirement to apply to apartment buildings with as few as four units. Watertown's solar ordinance, which was the inspiration for this measure, only applies to apartment buildings with 10 or more units. Mr. DiTullio asked if the 10-unit cutoff was a distinction without a difference. Mr. Benson, as a member of the public, noted that only once in recent years had a building with 10 or more units been approved. Mr. Levy voiced approval for new solar on units with four or more units. Mr. DiTullio noted that cost is not prohibitive for new solar. He also noted that Watertown's bylaw was passed three years ago. Ms. Dein said that in her opinion the 10-unit cutoff made sense, given the potential net metering complications of managing common loads, etc. She wondered if requiring solar on a small building, with fewer than 10 units, would be prohibitively burdensome. Mr. Levy offered to further discuss this issue before the next CEFC meeting. Mr. DiTullio agreed that we should discuss next month. Ms. Dein then agreed another month for discussing this would work. Ms. Raitt then noted another meeting including a group of builders could be a good discussion.

Mr. Pruitt then discussed the street tree planting measure in the Roadmap, which called for trees to be planted on private property near the street. Mr. Chapdelaine noted there is value to planting trees on private property even if not in the front yard near the street, and recommended that the measure be modified to call for incentives to plant trees anywhere on private property. The Committee raised no objections to this expansion.

Mr. Pruitt then highlighted a proposed addition to the Roadmap calling for the Town to continue participating in the Green Communities program, and to also participate in additional, similar programs as they become available. There was consensus on the committee to support this measure.

Mr. Pruitt then concluded that these were the total changes to the Roadmap suggested so far. The Committee had no further comments.

## **Agenda Item 2: Drafting the Net Zero Plan**

Mr. Pruitt commenced this discussion by noting that the first chapter is a letter from the future: 2050. Mr. Pruitt offered to circulate a draft letter. Mr. Levy offered to draft the letter. The Second Chapter, Getting to Net Zero, is designed to explain the framework for how the measures in the plan can actually achieve the overall result. Mr. Pruitt noted he would turn it into a Google Doc so that comments could be provided.

Mr. Amstutz then flagged that the December Meeting is running adjacent to the December Holidays. The Committee adjusted the schedule to December 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Meeting ended at 9:15am. The next meeting will occur on November 20, 2020.

Submitted by Dave Levy.